Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 29. (Canceled)

30. (New) A method for inhibiting the propagation of an undesired cell population, the method comprising:

(i) introducing an antagonist of a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto into at least one cell of an undesired cell population, and

(ii) cultivating the cell population for a time period sufficient to allow the antagonist to be effective, thereby inactivating, depleting, or inactivating and depleting, the aforementioned polypeptide in the cell population.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the cell population is in the mitotic stage.

32. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the cell population is in a resting stage.

33. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the cell population is a population of human cells.

34. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the antagonist of a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a specific siRNA for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto,

(b) a transcriptional regulator or an antisense molecule for the gene encoding a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto,

(c) a specific ribozyme for the mRNA of a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto,

(d) an antibody against a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto,

e) a specific aptamer, and

f) a specific mutein.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the antagonist is a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto, is a specific siRNA for a polypeptide having an (i) amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto.

36. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein the siRNA comprises a sequence as defined by SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, or SEQ ID NOs. 3 and 4.

37. (New) A method of treating a disease which is caused by the propagation of an undesired cell population comprising administering to a subject in need a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto.

38. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the disease which is caused by the propagation of an undesired cell population is a cancer disease.

39. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein the cancer disease is selected from the group consisting of neuroblastoma, intestine carcinoma, rectum carcinoma, colon carcinoma, familiary adenomatous polyposis carcinoma, hereditary non-polyposis colorectal

cancer, esophageal carcinoma, labial carcinoma, larynx carcinoma, hypopharynx carcinoma, tong carcinoma, salivary gland carcinoma, gastric carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, medullary thyroid carcinoma, papillary thyroid carcinoma, follicular thyroid carcinoma, anaplastic thyroid carcinoma, renal carcinoma, kidney parenchym carcinoma, ovarian carcinoma, cervix carcinoma, uterine corpus carcinoma, endometrium carcinoma, chorion carcinoma, pancreatic carcinoma, prostate carcinoma, testis carcinoma, breast carcinoma, urinary carcinoma, melanoma, brain tumors, glioblastoma, astrocytoma, meningioma, medulloblastoma, peripheral neuroectodermal tumors, Hodgkin lymphoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Burkitt lymphoma, acute lymphatic leukemia (ALL), chronic lymphatic leukemia (CLL), acute myeolid leukemia (AML), chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), adult T-cell leukemia lymphoma, hepatocellular carcinoma, gall bladder carcinoma, bronchial carcinoma, multiple myeloma, basalioma, teratoma, retinoblastoma, choroidea melanoma, seminoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, craniopharyngeoma, osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, myosarcoma, liposarcoma, fibrosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma, and plasmocytoma.

40. (New) The method according to claim 39, wherein the cancer disease is cervical carcinoma, neuroblastoma, glioblastoma, breast carcinoma, or a combination thereof.

41. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the antagonist for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto, is a specific siRNA for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto.

42. (New) A composition comprising an antagonist for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto, optionally together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, for the treatment of a disease caused by the propagation of an undesired cell population.

43. (New) The composition according to claim 42, wherein the disease is a cancer disease.

44. (New) A method for screening candidate compounds for at least one antagonist for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto with the ability to inhibit the propagation of a cell population, the method comprising the following steps:

(i) contacting a cell population with a candidate compound, thereby enabling the introduction of the candidate compound into the cells of the cell population,

(ii) cultivating the cell population for a time period sufficient to allow the candidate compound to be effective, and parallel cultivating a control cell population which has not been contacted with the candidate compound,

and

(iii) monitoring cell growth, cell properties, or a combination thereof in the cell population and in the control cell population,

wherein a reduced growth, altered cell properties, or a combination thereof as compared to the control cell population is indicative that the candidate compound is an antagonist for the aforementioned polypeptide.

45. (New) The method according to claim 44, the method comprising the additional steps:

(iv) qualitatively, quantitatively, or qualitatively and quantitatively detecting expression levels of a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto in the cell population and in the control cell population, wherein a lower level of expression is indicative of a compound that is an antagonist,

and

(v) determining whether a lower level of expression correlates with a reduced growth, altered cell properties, or a combination thereof of the cell population being contacted with the candidate compound.

46. (New) The method according to claim 44, wherein the cell population is in the mitotic stage.

47. (New) The method according to claim 44, wherein the cell population is a population of human cells.

48. (New) A method for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition wherein an antagonist for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto inhibiting the propagation of an undesired cell population is identified according to the method of claim 44, synthesized in adequate amounts, and formulated into a pharmaceutical composition.

49. (New) A method for inhibiting the propagation of an undesired cell population, the method comprising

(i) introducing an antagonist of a polypeptide having an (i) amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto into at least one cell of an undesired cell population, and

(ii) cultivating the cell population for a time period sufficient to allow the antagonist to be effective, thereby inactivating, depleting, or inactivating and depleting the polypeptide in the cell population,

wherein the antagonist for the aforementioned polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a specific siRNA for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto,

b) an antisense molecule for the gene encoding a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto,

c) a specific ribozyme for the mRNA of a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto,

d) an antibody against a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto, and

e) a specific aptamer for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto.

50. (New) A method of treating a cancer or an autoimmune disease comprising administering in a therapeutically effective amount an antagonist for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto, wherein the antagonist is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a specific siRNA for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto,

b) a gene antisense molecule for the gene encoding a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto,

c) a specific ribozyme for the mRNA of for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto,

d) an antibody against a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto, and

e) a specific aptamer for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto.

51. (New) A composition comprising an antagonist for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto, optionally together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, for the treatment of a cancer or an autoimmune disease, wherein the antagonist is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a specific siRNA for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto,

b) an antisense molecule for the gene encoding a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto,

c) a specific ribozyme for the mRNA of a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto,

d) an antibody against a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto, and

e) a specific aptamer for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto.

52. (New) A method for screening candidate compounds for at least one antagonist for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto with the ability to inhibit the propagation of a cell population, the method comprising the following steps:

(i) contacting a cell population with a candidate compound, thereby enabling the introduction of the candidate compound into the cells of the cell population,

(ii) cultivating the cell population for a time period sufficient to allow the candidate compound to be effective, and parallel cultivating a control cell population which has not been contacted with the candidate compound, and

(iii) monitoring cell growth, cell properties, or a combination thereof in the cell population and in the control cell population,

wherein a reduced growth, altered cell properties, or a combination thereof as compared to the control cell population is indicative that the candidate compound is an antagonist for the aforementioned polypeptide which inhibits the propagation of a cell population.

53. (New) A method for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition, wherein an antagonist for a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto inhibiting the propagation of an undesired cell population is identified according to the method of claim 52, synthesized in adequate amounts, and formulated into a pharmaceutical composition.

54. (New) A method of treating a patient having a disease, which is caused by the propagation of an undesired cell population, the method comprising introducing an antagonist of a polypeptide having an (i) amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an

amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto into the patient in a therapeutically effective amount.

55. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the disease is a cancer or an autoimmune disease.

56. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the antagonist of a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto is a specific siRNA for said polypeptide.

57. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the antagonist of a polypeptide having (i) an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 1 or (ii) an amino acid sequence at least 65 % identical thereto is introduced into the patient by using a vector.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the vector is a retroviral vector.